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THE G. A. R. NATIONAL PENSION COMMISSION.

As we stated last week, the Grand Army Committee on Pensions has closed its work so far as the personal examination of cases submitted to them as concerned, as it is simply impossible (as well as unnecessary) for the members to take up other cases for investigation, nor would they feel it right to make a request for special action on these over many thousands of cases, no doubt equally deserving.

The report of the committee will be due to the committee in the near future.

PRINCE HENRY stopped long enough in Philadelphia to let them see a man who has a few more grandfathers than any of them can boast of.

LET THE Europeans understand that so long as they will buy our goods we don't care a fig how they felt while we were thrashing Spain.

AN interesting point for scientists to determine is when a depositor in a bank changes to a "vicious persecutor" of the official who has wrecked the concern.

MR. NEELY is said to be very confident of acquittal. He should not leave the public in such dense ignorance of the grounds on which such a result is possible.

RUSSIA says that she is zealous for China's "integrity." With the United States, Great Britain and Japan guaranteeing it, it rather behooves her to be something of that sort.

MISS STONE has now been released, and before this thing goes any further there ought to be a missionaries' insurance company organized, which will handle such affairs in a business way.

THE Senate Committee on the Isthmian Canal seems to be getting more and more discouraged as to the possibility of a good title to the Panama Canal. Colombian complications now loom up.

THE German Socialists call the "Captains of Industry," who entertained Prince Henry, "Dollar Majesties." Most of them represented the chances of a poor boy in this favored land, for they had risen from the humblest beginnings.

EX-MINISTER OF JUSTICE MILLS, of Canada, thinks that if Canada should break loose and set up for herself, Maine, and perhaps the rest of the New England States, would cast her lot with her. The gentleman seems not to have read any history since 1812.

GEN. FUNSTON says that the Philippines are as peaceable as Kentucky. What part of Kentucky? That part which is still quivering from the cyclonic Wheeler's wrath against the effete monarchies of Europe, or that part where a deputy sheriff went out last week with a writ of replevin and killed six men and turned up some more in their blockhouse while serving it?

CANADA, which does not contribute a cent toward the revenues of the British Empire, is in a state of constant irritation, because England will not threaten war with us to give her a monopoly of the cod fisheries and land in Alaska to which she has no right. Canada is the little fish that runs out in the road and barks, and tries to involve the big dogs in a fight.

THE greatest astonishment, in reading Prince Henry's speeches at various points in the country, is the gentleman's ability to say nothing gracefully. Of course, this is a high accomplishment, and one in which Princes are carefully drilled, but still it is a surprise in such a number of speeches, made under such varying circumstances, the Prince should not have slipped sometime into saying something that meant something.

THE Boers have made another astonishing success, capturing Lord Methuen, four guns and 200 men, and killing and wounding 119 more. The lord is no great loss, as Lincoln once said, he could make another Brigadier-General in five minutes, but he hated to lose the unit. The lords have been the bane of the British army, and the more of them the Boers capture the better off the army will be. But the guns and infantry are another proposition.

SECRETARY LONG has decided to retire May 1, and the President has nominated Representative Moody, of Massachusetts, as his successor. But little is known about the new Secretary, though he has been a member of four Congresses. He is a lawyer, 49 years of age, a graduate of Harvard, and owes his selection to the support of Senator Lodge. Representative Foss, of Illinois, Chairman of the Naval Committee, was a vigorous competitor for the place.

REPRESENTATIVE FITZGERALD, of New York, does not exhibit his historical knowledge very creditably, in introducing a resolution to restore the old receiving ship Vermont to the roll of the navy. There is absolutely no sentimental reason why she should be given the honor accorded the Constitution and the Hartford. The Vermont had a very brief career as an active war vessel, and for some reason was soon retired from cruising. For 40 years she has been a receiving ship, and has gotten into such bad condition as an old wooden hulk can be. Sanitary reasons demand that she be put out of the way.

AN Associated Press dispatch from Minneapolis says:

"A resolution censuring Pension Commissioner Evans was voted down in the G. A. R. Convention here today. Another resolution arraigning the Pension Department for its construction of pension laws was adopted. A resolution commending President Roosevelt for his pronouncement regarding the preference that should be shown G. A. R. veterans under civil service law was unanimously adopted."

Apparently, the resolution denouncing Commissioner Evans by name was defeated under the rule that the G. A. R. Rules and Regulations expressly forbid the introduction of any such resolution, and conversely the censuring of any public official.

"INJUSTICE OF THE PENSION OFFICE."

The noisy pretense of the Commissioner of Pensions during his five years of office that he was doing marvelous things in the way of executing the pension laws and was only assisted by the "pension sharks" and "pension looters" is suffering a total wreck by the evidence that is piling up everywhere against him. The facts are becoming so apparent as to silence even his bluster and effrontery. All his old defenders and apologists are turning against him. No one seems to want to be on his side any more. Take for example the following debate in the House of Representatives Feb. 28 on the bill to allow an increase of pension to Wm. J. Overman, Co. A, 38th Ind.:

Mr. Gaines of Tennessee—My query is: Why does the gentleman report for an increase of pension in this case? In these claims, so far, I believe, this morning have been for the increase of pensions. Now, do you want to increase this pension?

Mr. Sullaway—This soldier is pensioned at \$17 a month, and if the gentleman will serve him, he would give them \$20. I have been here, and the Examination Surgeons recommend that he be pensioned at a much larger sum.

Mr. Gaines of Tennessee—Why?

Mr. Sullaway—Because of his disabilities.

Mr. Holliday—My secretary, I will say to the gentleman from Tennessee, made a mistake in drafting this bill. I directed him to put it at \$40, and he put it at only \$24.

Mr. Gaines of Tennessee—Why does the bill call for \$24? This is an increase.

Mr. Sullaway—The original bill calls for \$24, but the amendment recommended by the committee is \$30. He is rated for a gunshot wound.

Mr. Gaines of Tennessee—What are his physical disabilities?

Mr. Sullaway—Total wreck.

Mr. Gaines of Tennessee—Now, as I say, these bills are for an increase of pension. What is the gentleman's idea about having a general law to pension soldiers of the civil war, instead of having from day to day these special bills to increase pensions?

Mr. Sullaway—I would like to ask the gentleman why there is so much of that kind of legislation?

Mr. Sullaway—Simply because they do not get justice at the Pension Bureau.

Mr. Gaines of Tennessee—The gentleman arraigns the Pension Bureau.

Mr. Sullaway—Well, an injustice is done the soldier on the records at the Pension Bureau.

Mr. Gaines of Tennessee—Then, that rule applies to all the cases reported here this morning?

Mr. Sullaway—I do not remember whether the cases that have been taken up this morning are for increase, but I think they are mostly for an increase.

Mr. Gaines of Tennessee—Mr. Chairman, I have had a very frank and satisfactory explanation from the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. Sullaway) frankly states that it is simply because they do not get justice at the Pension Bureau.

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THE PENSION BUREAU'S CRUELTY.

Representative Bell, of Colorado, vigorously arraigned the Pension Bureau's cruel requirements in the case of Delia E. Slocum, widow of Aaron C. Slocum, late First Lieutenant, Co. E, 115th N. Y. Mr. Bell said:

"Without detaining the House at all, the report of the Committee on Invalid Pensions shows that the pension in this case ought to have been granted in 1881. It shows that this man died from wounds, and therefore the applicant would have been entitled to \$17 from 1881 up to the present time. It is proposed to give \$17 a month from this time on to this widow, who is now 75 years old, who swears she has not a particle of property on earth."

"The committee want to cut her down to \$17. In correspondence with her friends she has been told that she would be entitled to \$20. They have placed the amount at \$17, because that is what she would get if she were a pensioner."

"I want to say in this case this soldier served through the entire war. He was wounded near the scene where he was a Lieutenant. The proof shows that he died from that wound. The proof was so clear that if the man who shot him could have been tried for murder he would have been convicted of murder in the case. The Department, after the proof, was beyond question, held that pension because he did not have a hospital record, and because he could not explain the reason why he was wounded, he was not pensioned."

"The man died from a gunshot wound, 10 or 12 years ago, and we tried to get his wife a pension. The board that examined Capt. Slocum the first time showed that he had a wound near his spine at that time. The Captain had been in the ranks with him, and he was present when he was shot, that he relieved him from time to time because of the wound; but he was young and vigorous and never went to a hospital to be treated."

"The Board of Examiners declared they found the wound there; the man that attended him before his death declared that he died from the wound. I say \$20, considering the conditions in this case, is a mere pittance. The widow has lost, according to this report, nearly \$5,000."

"I want to say, now, that I hope this House will vote that she may have for the remainder of her days the paltry sum of \$20."

In response to questions by other members, Mr. Bell said that he had carefully examined the case, and that he had investigated the facts for himself. He appealed to the Commissioner, but was informed that while the proof was sufficient the claim could not be allowed, because to do so would be to overrule a former Commissioner.

The Committee of the Whole voted to favorably recommend the bill.

THE snob-clique in the navy still gets in its dire work. Gunner Joseph Hill, formerly of the Maine, has passed very creditably the moral, mental and physical examinations for promotion to a commission under the act of Congress to encourage the promotion of enlisted men, but has been denied a commission, because he "lacks the necessary professional qualifications."

Rigid explanation should be required of this denial of a most wise and salutary law. What is it that is keeping upon themselves to defeat the will of Congress? If we are to have the best kind of a navy we must offer inducements to the best kind of young men to enlist. The best kind of an inducement to all those who shall make themselves worthy of it. This is not only good policy, but it is true Americanism. Is a little clique of snobbish aristocrats in the Navy Department to be allowed to nullify the desire of the people and the act of Congress? Evans' constant contempt for laws passed by Congress seems to embolden underlings in other departments.

WITHOUT exception, the South Carolina papers condemn both Senators, but Tillman much more so than Mc Laurin. They find that Tillman was wrong from the beginning, and that he placed his much better. They cannot understand how he should of late show such sensitiveness to being called a liar, because that has been a common practice in the State ever since he entered politics, and has repeatedly occurred in the most public manner, to his face in every town in South Carolina. His apology to the Senate was a slander on South Carolina, and he lost a great point in not playing to the groundlings that he really did not want to sit at a table where a "nigger" had recently sat, and at which a "little Dutchman" had been sitting. Other Southern papers talk about the same way, and many of them insist that both Senators, and certainly Tillman, should have been expelled.

THE House has favorably considered a bill to put Horatio N. Warren, "late Colonel of the 129th Pa.," on the pension roll at \$20 a month. There must be some mistake about this. The Colonel of the 129th Pa. nine months' regiment was Jacob G. Frick. Horatio N. Warren was Lieutenant-Colonel of the 424th Pa., a splendid regiment, and one of the 309 Fighting Regiments, which belonged to the First Corps, and lost 36.5 per cent. of its enrollment killed in battle. It held a front position the first day at Gettysburg, where it lost terribly—its Colonel (Robert P. Cummins) being among the killed. Horatio N. Warren, as Major, commanded during the terrific fighting of the last Richmond campaign.

A SURESTEP has been taken in the matter of settling the vexatious question of the friars in the Philippines, by the appointment of Bishop O'Gorman as a member of the commission of three to investigate the matter, and settle upon the terms of purchase of the land held by the orders.

Bishop O'Gorman, a good representative of the advanced wing of American Roman Catholics, and his findings will have great weight with a large and influential body of our fellow-citizens.

Ir Maj. Micajah Jenkins does not receive from the President's hands the sword that his neighbors think he deserves, and if the President is kept away from Charleston, there are no doubt the South Carolinians will have only their selves to blame. They should send a different kind of a man to the Senate.

THE House has favorably considered a bill to place Gen. Aquila Wiley, late Colonel of the 41st Ohio, on the pension roll at \$72 a month. There is no soldier in the country more deserving of this than Gen. Wiley. His service was long, brilliant and substantial, and he is now so broken by it that there should be no question of granting the amount to him.

NO FEAR that Prince Henry's visit will give royalty a foothold in this country. They did not let him stay long enough anywhere to get his washing done.

Si and the Boys of Co. Q. On the March through the Carolinas

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A Lively Struggle to Get at the Rebel Commissary.

The campaign upon which Gen. Sherman was now entering was to add immensely to his fame as one of the greatest military leaders in history.

He had engaged a task that few commanders in the world's annals have undertaken. He was to move an army of 60,000 men, in the dead of winter, across a country abounding in enormous natural difficulties, and defended by a numerous, well-armed and well-disciplined army, and the utmost advantage of everyone of those difficulties.

Directly across the path he proposed to take ran six great rivers—the Savannah, the Ogeechee, the Salkehatchie, the Sattee and the Pedee—with smaller rivers and branches between. Each one of these was bordered by wide swamps, extending miles on either side, and all swollen by the heavy winter rains.

It would have seemed impossible to march an army across them in times of profound peace. How infinitely more so with the State of South Carolina in arms, supporting the trained army which had been fighting for years in support of the rebellion?

To be stopped anywhere, for any length of time, would mean destruction to Sherman's army, which would starve if entangled in the swamps, and meet the fate of Napoleon's retreat from Moscow.

The march across the river for far higher qualities of generalship in Sherman than did the march through Georgia, made in the pleasant Indian Summer, over an open and level country, and defended by an enemy vastly inferior in numbers.

Nothing but supreme strategy and ability in handling his army could win success, and Sherman showed himself faultless.

He first sent a portion of his army to Port Royal to take in reverse those who might be defending the Savannah River, and then crossed the rest at Sister's Ferry, 40 miles above Savannah.

The Salkehatchie River lay next across his route, and his army concentrated far on its left, where the rebels divided in opinion as to whether he was marching on Charleston or Augusta. They attempted to defend both, but while keeping up the pretense of attacking both, he kept the railroad connecting them, and marched on Columbia, the Capital of the State. While his enemies were confused and undecided, he got his army across both branches of the Edisto, and was in the very heart of the State, with the armies opposing him hopelessly divided.

Every move he made, however, was studied and planned. His troops found enemies behind every creek, river and swamp, who could only be dislodged by wading and wallowing through deep mud, ice-cold water and rushing streams.

The Ogeechee, which the Carolinians not only a magnificent monument to Sherman's military genius, but even a grander one to the courage, indomitable resolution and unflinching bravery of the Union soldier, who never suffered anything to discourage him, but instantly attacked every obstacle that confronted him with superb intelligence and will that conquered success.

As the boys rose from behind their log, drew long breaths, in the moment of victory, and looked around to take in the scene, they saw the rebels, who saw one of the wonderful metamorphoses common in the prompt and skillful movement of a great army.

The great flood of the Savannah had been rapidly covered with a fleet of arriving vessels—gunboats, regular and improvised, transports, schooners, scows, flatboats, and what might be useful in the hands of the army.

Trains were crossing through deep mud and the roads, and on the bare plain where Shad Graham had established himself, the Union army was arriving, and going into camp. A regiment was being ferried over to take possession of the bluff where the rebels had been.

"Hello! Hello! Hello!" as "As soon as you land them men, come and take us over. We want to get out of here."

"A lot of blamed cavalry," shouted the soldiers on the bluff. "Polly back to the bluff. We want to get ahead of you, or there won't be a chicken or a pig left in the whole country."

"We ain't no cavalry," shouted Si, resenting the insult. "We're regulars and scouts. Come and take us over."

"Blimey! blimey!" shouted the men back. "A heap sight worse'n the cavalry. Don't you see them uniforms? We ain't no cavalry. We're regulars and scouts. Come and take us over."

"The vote seems to be in favor of letting you stay where you are," said Si, looking back over his shoulder. "You ain't no cavalry. We're regulars and scouts. Come and take us over."

"Safety's got nothing to do with it," yelled Shad. "We want to get ahead of you, or there won't be a chicken or a pig left in the whole country."

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Shorty spluttered, "You're too sudden, entirely. Why—why—why didn't you give a command of warning before you fired? I'd a had time to shut my mouth, any way. I was in the very act of yelling when I went over, and I thought I swallowed enough water to lower the level so that we could get across dry-shod."

"I hadn't no idea that it was going to break off that way, even if you'n Si was joggling up and down there on the end of the limb," Tom excused himself. "It seemed as solid as ever at the last lick."

"That's all right; that's all right," said Si, brisily. "Don't waste time in explanations, since no bones is broke. Let's work Sandy, bring down that lariar rope, and fasten to that limb there in front. Shorty, you get a pole and get on the log, to keep it off the bank, while the rest of us tug it down to the creek. Lively, now, everybody. Time's precious."

They all spring to their tasks. The log was moved down toward the creek under the strain of several men, but Shorty had a discouraging time of it. Every little while one of the submerged branches would strike an obstruction, and cant the trunk off its axis. Shorty, off into the water, whence he would emerge, spluttering and swearing. This was the first time he had fallen from grace since he had stopped carrying for Maria's sake. He had had firmness and self-control enough to refrain even the first time he was ducked, but the second time was too much for the weak flesh.

Si understood and appreciated. "I don't bring up some axes. Tell them we'll be sure to return them," he said.

From the distance came derisive yells of the rebels at the plight of their enemies.

While the boys were gone, Si and the rest took as good positions as they could find, and began sharpshooting at the rebels beyond, to get them discouraged before the work began. They succeeded miserably, and then the rebels, who were seen when Pete and Sandy came back with the axes, they, too, with Gid and Alf, were here to attend the rebels, while Si and Shorty led the rest to attack the giant log.

The rebels renewed their yells, for they thought that the express would give them work for a day or two at least, cutting away the great mass of stout branches which filled the road.

But Si was a most expert woodsman than they dreamed. He hit upon a plan to return them.

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